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Faults Modeling of the Impedance and Reversed Polarity Types within the PV Generator Operation

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Abstract— In this paper, we proposed a new mathematical model of the I-V characteristic of a faulty photovoltaic generator. It presents its behavior in normal and faulty operations. In particular, when its basic components such as cells, bypass and blocking diodes are subjected to the impedance or reversed polarity faults.

The developed model of the faulty PV generator will allow studying of the I-V characteristic, measures the tolerances of the technical functions, avoids numerous experiments, and ensure better assessment of fault consequences.

Index Terms — Photovoltaic Generator; I-V Characteristic; Modeling; Simulation; Impedance and Reversed Polarity Faults.

NOMENCLATURE

I_{ph}	= Photocurrent standard condition.
I_0	= Reverse saturation current of the diode.
Z	= Electrical impedance
R_s	= Cell series resistance.
$nc: ncg / ncp$	= Cell number: good / defective.
$ng: ngg / ngp$	= Group number: good / defective.
$nm: nmg / nmp$	= Module number: good / defective.
$ns: nsg / nsp$	= String number: good / defective.
nfg / nfp	= Good / defective generator.
N_{Cells}	= Number of cells in each group.
N_{Groups}	= Number of groups in each module.
$N_{Modules}$	= Number of modules in each string.
$N_{Strings}$	= Number of strings in each generator.
V / I	= Voltage / current.
P	= Power.
I_{Bypass_Diode}	= Bypass diode current.
$V_{Cell_Imposed}$	= Voltage imposed.
a	= Diode ideality factor.
V_t	= Diode Thermal voltage.

I. INTRODUCTION

Photovoltaic solar energy represents one type of the three renewable energy categories. It results from the conversion of the solar energy into electrical energy, by a semiconductor material. This conversion assures by the photovoltaic phenomenon, which is discovered by Edmond Becquerel in 1839. This source energy type supports on the world market of production systems energies a very high growth rate around 30 to 40 % per

year. This growth lies in its easy usage, its autonomy and its silent and nonpolluting operation.

Photovoltaic generator during its functioning submits to a set of defects, which they decrease its productivity, such as the cells heating, cells crack, degradation and corrosion of the interconnections [3-5]. These defects participate in the appearance of the impedance and the reversed polarity faults, which reduce the power supplies by the faulty generator [6-7]. Modeling the generator behavior in its malfunction, to ensure its availability, facilities its faults detection and diagnosis [1-2].

In this context, the paper objective is the development of a new fault modeling of the PV generator. So, the paper contribution is to propose a new methodology for modeling the photovoltaic generators. This new model bases on his presentation on mathematical equations of the IV characteristic of the faulty basic components: cells, bypass and blocking diodes, which they reformulate by electrical laws. This model presents the faulty behavior of the photovoltaic generator, to quantify the influence degree of these faults on its operation.

II. MODELING THE PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATOR IN NORMAL FUNCTIONING

Modeling the PV generator in the normal functioning can use as a benchmark, to distinguish between normal and abnormal cases, by the results comparison.

Figure1 presents the studied generator. It composes of five parallel strings. Each string contains five modules in series, and terminus with a blocking diode. Each module includes thirty-six cells. These cells distribute on two groups by bypass diodes. In this work, we base the modeling of the photovoltaic cell on the *with resistance* model. So, the characteristic of a good PV generator is

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{Modules} \times N_{Groups} \times N_{Cells} \times V_{Cell_{ncg, nmg, nvg, nfg}} \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{Strings} \times \left(\frac{I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(\frac{V_{Cell_{ncg, nmg, nvg, nfg}}{a \times V_t} + I_{Cell_{ncg, nmg, nvg, nfg}} \times R_s}{e} - 1 \right)}{e} \right) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

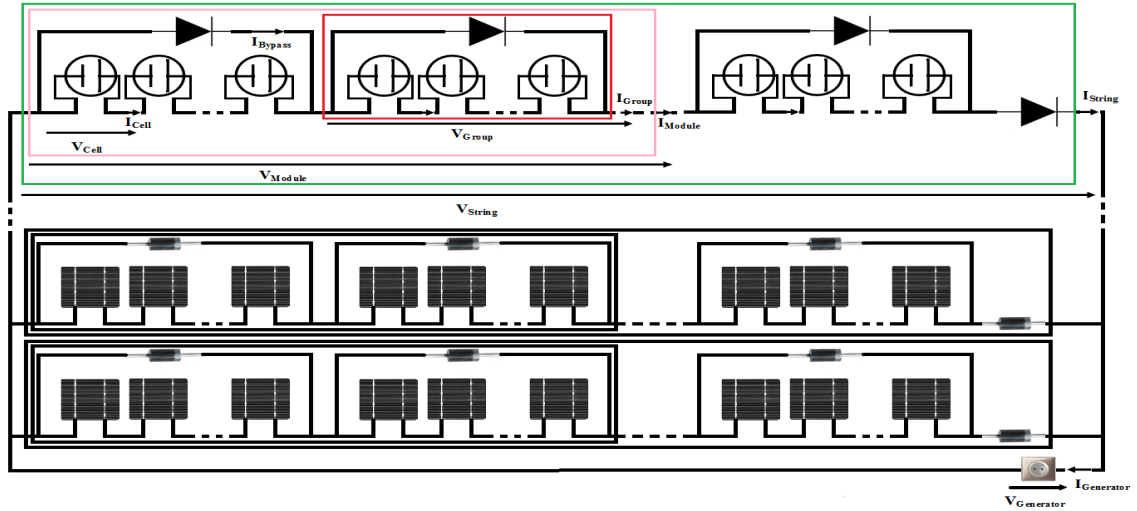


Figure 1. Electrical block diagram of a PV generator in its normal functioning

III. MODELING THE PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATOR IN MALFUNCTIONING

A. Defective Cells

The cell impedance presents the degradation state of the defective cell. Because, practically a simple crack at the cell can increase its resistance. Then, it appears the

cell impedance or heating cell defaults. And finally, it creates the cell open-circuit default, if the cell resistance remains increasing.

If $\exists nc=1:N_{Cells}$ of $\exists ng=1:N_{Groups}$ of $\exists nm=1:N_{Modules}$ of $\exists ns=1:N_{Strings}$, $I_{Cell}_{nc,ng,nm,ns,nfp} \bullet 0$

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} (V_{String_{ns=nfp}}) \\ = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \left(\sum_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \sum_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} \sum_{nc=1}^{N_{Cells}} \left(V_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}} - \left(\left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}}}{a \times V_t} + \frac{I_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}} \times R_s}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \right) \right) \right) \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = \left[N_{Strings_Good} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}}}{a \times V_t} + \frac{I_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}} \times R_s}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) + \sum_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings_Defective}} \min_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \min_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} (I_{Group_{ng,nm,ns,nfp}}) \right] \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Else

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = 0 \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

End

Where: N_{Groups} : Number of groups where each one contains at least one good cell.

The second default type is cell reversed polarity. It can provide a negative voltage at its terminals. So, it changes its group operation, which is as a generator, while its

voltage is positive, to the short-circuit case when its voltage is null, and finally to a receiver if its voltage is negative.

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} (V_{String_{ns=nfp}}) = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \left(\sum_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \sum_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} \sum_{nc=1}^{N_{Cells}} (V_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}} - V_{Cell_{nc=nfp,ng,nm,ns=nfp}}) \right) \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = \sum_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \min_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \min_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} (I_{Group_{ng,nm,ns,nfp}}) \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

B. Defective Bypass Diodes

Also, among the known defects in the diagnosis of photovoltaic systems: bypass diode impedance. Because, its resistance in the ideal case null. But, its damage

increases its resistance, and become remarkable and calculable. The faulty generator characteristic with bypass diode impedance is

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{PV_{nfp}} &= N_{Modules} \times N_{Groups} \times N_{Cells} \times V_{Cell_Imposed} \\
I_{PV_{nfp}} &= \left[N_{Strings'} \times \left[\left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} \times R_S}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) + \sum_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings''}} \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Modules}} \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Groups}} \left(\left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} \times R_S}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \right) \right] \right] \quad (5)
\end{aligned}$$

Where: $N_{Strings'}$: Strings contain at least one good group. $N_{Strings''}$: Strings all its groups are defective.

Secondly, Bypass diode reversed polarity can create short-circuit, which reduces the current of its group, and cancels outright the voltage provides by the cells grouped by this defective diode.

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{PV_{nfp}} &= \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} (V_{String_{ns=nsp, nfp}}) = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \left(\sum_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \sum_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} \sum_{nc=1}^{N_{Cells}} V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns=nsp, nfp}} \right) \\
I_{PV_{nfp}} &= N_{String_Good} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} \times R_S}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) + \sum_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings_Defective}} \min_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \min_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} (I_{Group_{ng=ngp, nm, ns, nfp}}) \quad (6)
\end{aligned}$$

C. Defective Blocking Diodes

The blocking diode during its functioning submits to the impedance fault. It changes outright its functioning, and it permits the passage of its current in the both directions. Also, this defective diode creates a voltage at its terminals, because its resistance increases. The faulty generator characteristic is

If the defective strings cells currents are zero, and its opposite currents are not zero

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{PV_{nfp}} &= \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} (V_{String_{ns=nsg, nfp}}) = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \left(\left(\sum_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \sum_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} \sum_{nc=1}^{N_{Cells}} V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns=nsg, nfp}} \right) + (Z_{Blocking_Diode_{ns=nsg, nfp}} \times I_{String_Opposite_{ns=nsg, nfp}}) \right) \\
I_{PV_{nfp}} &= \left[N_{Strings_Good} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} \times R_S}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \right] - \sum_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings_Defective}} I_{String_Opposite_{ns=nsg, nfp}} \quad (7)
\end{aligned}$$

If the defective strings cells currents are not zero, and its opposite currents are zero

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{PV_{nfp}} &= \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} (V_{String_{ns=nsp, nfp}}) \\
&= \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \left(\left(\sum_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \sum_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} \sum_{nc=1}^{N_{Cells}} (V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns=nsp, nfp}}) \right) - Z_{Blocking_Diode_{ns=nsp, nfp}} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} \times R_S}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \right) \\
I_{PV_{nfp}} &= N_{Strings} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng, nm, ns, nfp}} \times R_S}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \quad (8)
\end{aligned}$$

If the defective strings cells currents are not zero, its opposite currents are not zero, and all the generator strings are defective

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{PV_{nfp}} &= N_{Modules} \times N_{Groups} \times N_{Cells} \times V_{Cell_Open-circuit} \\
I_{PV_{nfp}} &= 0 \quad (9)
\end{aligned}$$

But if this faulty generator contains at least one good string

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{Modules} \times N_{Groups} \times N_{Cells} \times V_{Cell_imposed} \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{String_Good} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}} \times R_s}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

End

A blocking diode reversed polarity reduces the generator productivity. Because, it blocks its faulty string current. And therefore, its string becomes in the open-

circuit mode in the presence of its supplied current. Otherwise, its string becomes in the receiver mode.

- If the defective strings cells currents are zero, and its opposite currents are not zero

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} (V_{String_{ns,ns,ns,nfp}}) = \min_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings}} \left(\sum_{nm=1}^{N_{Modules}} \sum_{ng=1}^{N_{Groups}} \sum_{nc=1}^{N_{Cells}} (V_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}}) \right) \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = \left[N_{Strings_Good} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}} \times R_s}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \right] - \sum_{ns=1}^{N_{Strings'}} I_{String_Opposite_{ns,nfp}} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Where $N_{Strings'}$: number of defective strings with provided current null.

- If the defective strings cells currents are not zero, its opposite currents are not zero, and all the generator strings are defective

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{Modules} \times N_{Groups} \times N_{Cells} \times V_{Cell_Open-circuit} \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

But, if this faulty generator contains at least one good string

$$\begin{cases} V_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{Modules} \times N_{Groups} \times N_{Cells} \times V_{Cell_imposed} \\ I_{PV_{nfp}} = N_{String_Good} \times \left(I_{ph} - I_0 \times \left(e^{\frac{V_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}} + I_{Cell_{nc,ng,nm,ns,ns,ns,nfp}} \times R_s}{a \times V_t}} - 1 \right) \right) \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

D. Simulation results

The results simulations of the PV generator model are shown in the following Figures 2 to 8.

1) *Figure2* shows the IV characteristic and the power of a healthy photovoltaic generator.

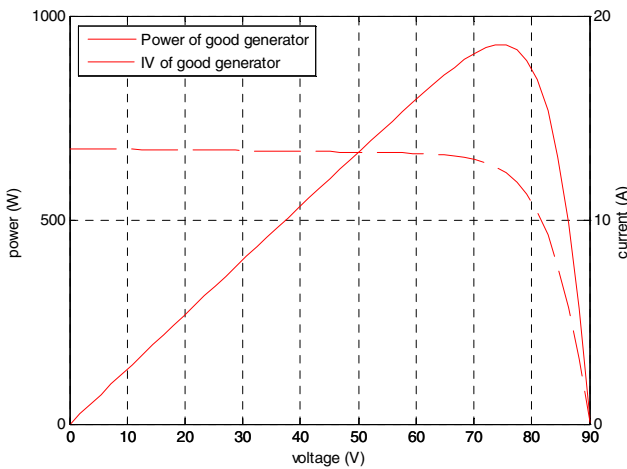


Figure2. I-V & power of a good PV generator

2) *Figure3* presents the functioning of the generator

containing cells impedance. It shows that the power of a PV generator decreases proportional to the number of the defective cells.

3) *Figure4* presents the functioning of the generator containing bypass diode impedance. It shows that this defect has no influence on the characterization of a faulty string, which contains at least one good group. Else, the power of the generator increases proportionally to the number of its faulty strings. Because, the currents of these latter increases until reaching its short-circuit values.

4) *Figure5* presents the influence of the blocking diode impedance on the functioning of the PV generator. It shows that this defect makes a significant deterioration in the power generator. Because, it reduces the voltage of its string and it creates the reversed current. The string behaves in a receiver mode if its cells supplied current is null, otherwise it becomes in the open-circuit mode.

5) *Figure6* presents the functioning of the generator containing cells reversed polarity. It shows that the power of a PV generator decreases proportional to the number of the defective cells. It reaches the zero value, when the half of the cells is defective. And also, it absorbs more power, if the number of its defective cells greater that the healthy

ones.

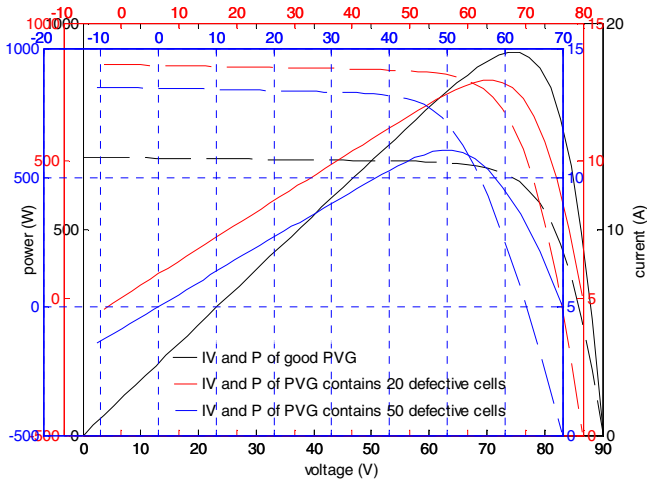


Figure3. IV & P of the PV contains cells impedance.

performance. Because, it can affects the group voltage. And also it decreases the group current.

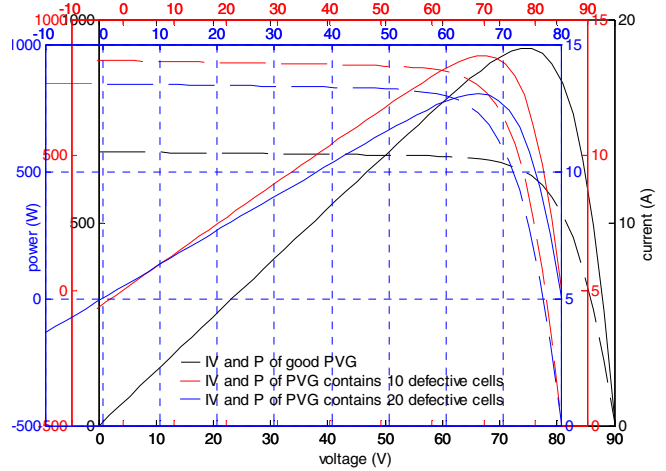


Figure6. IV & power of PV generator contains cell reversed polarity

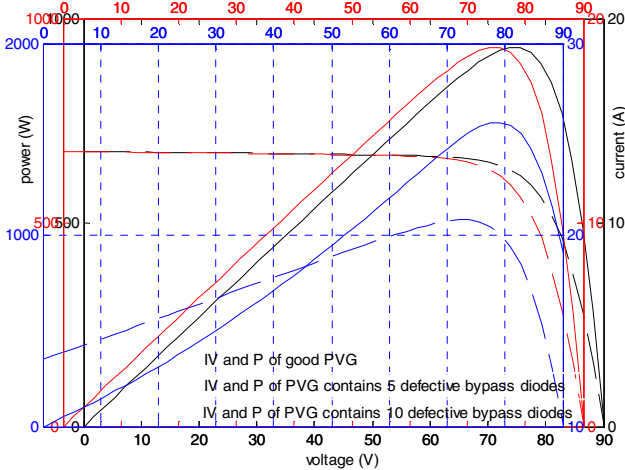


Figure4. IV & P of the PV contains bypass diode impedance.

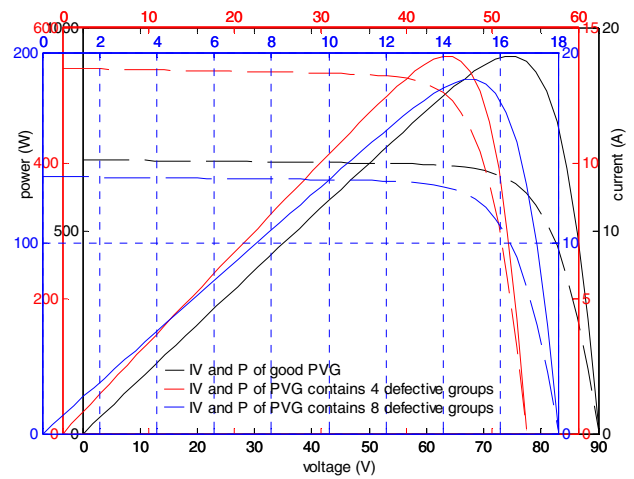


Figure7. IV & power of PV generator contains bypass diodes reversed polarity

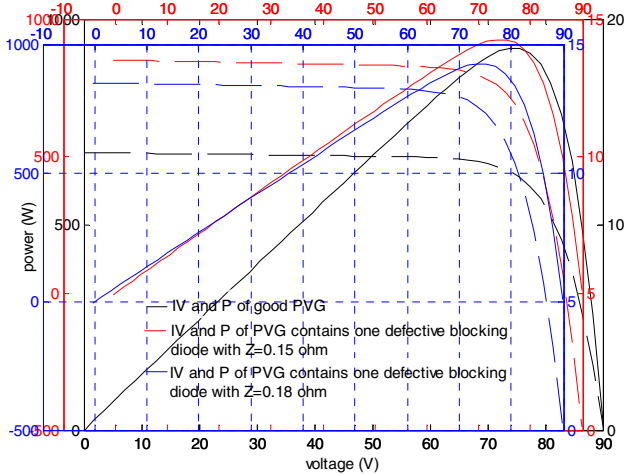


Figure5. IV & P of the PV contains blocking diode impedance.

6) Figure7 presents the functioning of the generator containing bypass diodes reversed polarity. It shows that this defect has a greater impact on the PV generator

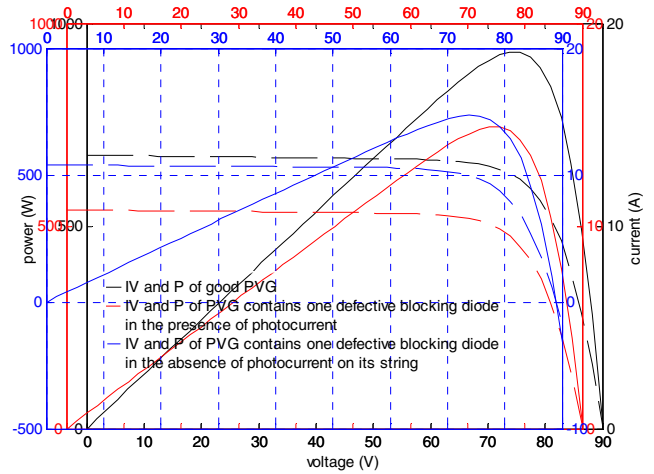


Figure8. IV & power of PV generator contains blocking diodes reversed polarity

7) Figure8 presents the functioning of the generator containing blocking diodes reversed polarity. It shows that

this defect makes a significant deterioration in the generator power. Because, the existence of one defective blocking diode affects the string current flow, and the latter behaves in the open-circuit mode if its cells supplied current is not null. Otherwise, this string becomes in the receiver mode.

IV. CONCLUSION

This article proposed a new strategy, for the mathematical modeling of the impedance and reversed polarity faults influence, on the IV characteristic and the power of a photovoltaic generator. We concluded that these defects types decrease the generator productivity, either by changing its functioning to the receiver stat, or to the short-circuit stat or also to the open-circuit stat.

The work proposed in this paper, presented the influence modeling of the impedance and reversed polarity faults, on the generator operation, which contained on the most: cells, or bypass diodes, or blocking diodes in impedance or reversed polarity faults. The future work resided in the influence modeling of the impedance and reversed polarity faults, on the generator operation that contained the hybrid of defective cells, bypass diodes and blocking diodes at the same time.

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